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The Allen and Joan Bildner
Center for the Study of Jewish Life
Rutgers University
12 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901



**The Allen and Joan Bildner
Center for the Study
of Jewish Life**
Rutgers University
12 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: 732-932-2033
Email: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu
Website: <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

**The Allen and Joan Bildner
Center for the Study of Jewish Life**
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
with
**The Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for
Russian and East European Jewry**
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Beyond Eastern Europe

**Jewish Cultures in Israel
and the United States**
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
March 18-20, 2007
at Rutgers University



Support for the conference has been provided by the
Posen Foundation and the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 18

Noon Registration/Lunch

1:00 PM **GREETINGS**
Ziva Galili, Acting Executive Dean,
School of Arts and Sciences,
Rutgers University
Yael Zerubavel, Director, Bildner Center,
Rutgers University
Israel Bartal, Dean of Humanities,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

1:15–1:45 PM **OPENING LECTURE**
Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers University
The Chickpea and the Jewish Question:
On the Tenacity of Ashkenazic Jewish Culture

1:45–3:10 PM **Session 1:**
HOMELANDS AND SYMBOLIC LANDSCAPES
Chair: **Ann Fabian**, Dean of Humanities, SAS,
Rutgers University
Israel Bartal, Hebrew University
Farming the Land in Three Continents:
Bilu, Am Oylom, and Yefe-Nahar
Yael Zerubavel, Rutgers University
Europe, the Desert, and the Yishuv:
Mental Geographies and Space Metaphors

3:10 PM Break

3:30–4:55 PM **Session 2:**
JEWISH EASTERN EUROPE ON DISPLAY
Chair: **Joanna Regulska**, Director of International
Programs, Rutgers University
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett,
New York University
The Museum of the History of Polish Jews
Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University
The Shtetl Subjunctive: Yaffa Eliach's
Living History Museum

5:00–6:15 PM **Session 3:**
MODERN JEWISH LITERARY IMAGINATION
Chair: **Barry Qualls**, Vice President Undergraduate
Education – Interim, Rutgers University
Olga Litvak, Princeton University
Sholem Aleichem and the Russian Origins of
Modern Jewish Literature

6:15 PM Dinner
8:00 PM **EVENING PROGRAM**
The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture
**Russian Roots in Israeli Soil:
From the Dnieper to the Jordan**
Anita Shapira, Tel Aviv University
and Columbia University
9:30 PM Shuttle to University Inn

Monday, March 19

8:15 AM Breakfast
9:00–10:25 AM **Session 4:**
TRANSNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY
Chair: **Alexander M. Semyonov**, Smolny College
and St. Petersburg State University
Discussant: **Daniel Soyer**, Fordham University
Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Hebrew University
Political and Ideological Currents of Organized
Philanthropy: Europe, the Americas, and the Yishuv,
1880s-1948
Rebecca Kobrin, Columbia University
Empire of Charity: American Jewry, Polish Jewry,
and the Politics of Philanthropy

10:30–11:55 AM **Session 5:**
MIGRATIONS OF JEWISH RADICALISM
Chair: **Uri Eisenzweig**, Rutgers University
Discussant: **Elissa Bemporad**,
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
Tony Michels, University of Wisconsin–Madison
American Yiddish Socialists and the Rise of
Transatlantic Jewish Politics, 1880s-1920s
Gennady Estraiikh, New York University
Between Moscow, Warsaw, and Jerusalem:
American Yiddish Communists in the 1960s
and 1970s

Noon Lunch
1:00–2:25 PM **Session 6:**
THE LANGUAGES OF CONTEMPORARY HASIDIM
Chair: **Jenny Mandelbaum**, Rutgers University
Discussant: **Jonathan Boyarin**,
University of Kansas

Beyond Eastern Europe

Jewish Cultures in Israel and the United States

MARCH 18-20, 2007

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

(FOR FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS)

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State: _____

Country, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Institutional Affiliation(s): _____

Please check relevant boxes below (no fee for attending conference):

I plan to attend the conference on the following days:

Sunday Monday Tuesday

Meals (Kosher dietary laws observed) Vegetarian

Sunday Lunch \$10 Dinner \$18

Monday Breakfast (complimentary)

Lunch \$10 Dinner \$18

Tuesday Breakfast (complimentary)

Lunch \$10

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$_____ (check payable to Rutgers University)

Registration must be received by March 5, 2007.

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

Jodi Marcou
The Bildner Center, Rutgers University
12 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: 732/932-2033 • Fax: 732/932-3052

Email: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu

Website: <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

8:15 AM Breakfast

9:00–10:45 AM **Session 9:**
PERFORMING JEWISH IDENTITIES

Chair: **Alyssa Quint**, *Princeton University*

Leslie Fishbein, *Rutgers University*
Cultural Loss and the Crafting of New Identity
in American Jewish Immigrant and Refugee
Women's Memoirs

Freddi Rokem, *Tel Aviv University*
Theater and Exile: The Geshen Theater
and Its Traditions

Olga Gershenson,
University of Massachusetts–Amherst
Zionist Nostalgia: Russian Immigrants Screen
Israeli History

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM–12:40 PM **Session 10:**
JOURNEYS: PERSONAL AND LEGENDARY

Chair: **Michael Levine**, *Rutgers University*

Galit Hasan-Rokem, *Hebrew University*
The Wandering Jew: The Route out of
Eastern Europe?

Barbara Harshav, *Yale University*
Translating from Jewish Languages

Michal Govrin, *Author, Jerusalem*
The Transmitted Melody: A Family Saga
Across the Twentieth Century

12:45 PM Lunch

1:30–3:30 PM

ROUNDTABLE:
THE MEANINGS OF ASHKENAZ
IN NEW WORLDS

Moderator: **Nancy Sinkoff**, *Rutgers University*

Benjamin Harshav, *Yale University*

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, *NYU*

Ezra Mendelsohn, *Hebrew University*

Anita Shapira, *Tel Aviv University*

Michael Stanislawski, *Columbia University*

2:30–3:55 PM

Session 7:
JEWISH CITYSCAPES

Chair: **Gerald Pirog**, *Rutgers University*

Discussant: **Suzanne Wasserman**,
Graduate Center, CUNY

Anat Helman, *Hebrew University*
Odessa's Wide Boulevard or the Shtetl's Narrow
Alley? The East European Facets of the First
Hebrew City

Anna Shternshis, *University of Toronto*
Between the Red and Yellow Stars: Ethnic and
Religious Identity of Soviet World War II Veterans
in New York and Berlin

3:55 PM

Break

4:15–5:40 PM

Session 8:
NEW WORLDS FOR EASTERN
EUROPEAN POLITICS

Chair: **Myron Aronoff**, *Rutgers University*

Discussant: **Benjamin Nathans**,
University of Pennsylvania

Ela Bauer, *University of Haifa*
Polish Roots of Israeli Democracy

James Loeffler, *Columbia University*
and University of Virginia
Approaching the Jewish Atlantic:
The East European Legacy in American
Jewish Political Thought

5:45 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM

Shuttle to Douglass College Center
for evening program

7:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM

Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program
Funded by the Karma Foundation

Back to the Old World: Jewish Filmmakers'
Journeys to Eastern Europe

Moderator: **Jeffrey Shandler**, *Rutgers University*

Filmmakers: **Marian Marzynski** (*Shtetl*)

Pearl Gluck (*Divan*)

9:30 PM

Shuttle to University Inn

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Sunday, March 18 and Monday evening, March 19
Trayes Hall, Douglass College Center, Rutgers University
100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732/932-9372

Monday, March 19 (day only) and Tuesday, March 20
University Inn and Conference Center at Rutgers
178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8556
Phone: 732/932-9144 • Website: www.univinn.rutgers.edu

ACCOMMODATIONS (for conference presenters)

University Inn and Conference Center at Rutgers (see above)

TRAVEL

AIR: The closest airport is Newark International Airport in Newark, New Jersey. The University Inn is approximately 40 minutes from the airport. For transportation to and from Newark Airport, contact State Shuttle at 1-800-427-3207. Advance reservation is required. Ask for the Rutgers rate. NJ Transit trains also run from the airport to the New Brunswick train station.

TRAIN: Within New Jersey and from Penn Station, New York, take New Jersey Transit (njtransit.com) to the New Brunswick train station. For travel from other areas take Amtrak (Amtrak.com) to the Trenton train station (from the South) or Penn Station, New York (from the North). You will be able to switch to a New Jersey Transit train to the New Brunswick station.

On Sunday, March 18, there will be a Rutgers shuttle available at the New Brunswick station between 11:10 am and 12:45 pm for travel to the conference. Taxis are also available from the station for the ten-minute ride to the conference.

DRIVING: The reconstruction of Rt. 18 between Rt. 27 and Rt. 1 is likely to affect travelers to the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus. Directions to the Douglass College Center and the University Inn and parking information are available at <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>.

PARKING: Permits, which are required at the University Inn, will be available at the registration desk.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Yael Zerubavel
Nancy Sinkoff
Jeffrey Shandler
Israel Bartal
Jonathan Dekel-Chen